

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason, which occurs this year on Thursday, May 1st.

As I see nations around the world in turmoil, among people of different religious faiths, we are moved to deeper appreciation for the Framers, who bequeathed us the Constitution, which requires the separation of church and state. We could not have built a vast nation of extraordinary religious and ethnic diversity were it not for our tolerance of the world's great religions, all of which exist among us in our nation today, and of Americans who claim no religion. I hope that all Americans—religious, non-religious and secular alike—will join in observing the National Day of Reason, today, May 1, 2014. This day provides an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the positive impacts on humanity of reason, critical thought and the scientific method, which have always been acknowledged to be consistent with religious faith, and to reaffirm that the line between religion and government must remain indelible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID SKORTON

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. David Skorton on his recent appointment as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Skorton, who currently serves as the 12th President of Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York, will begin his tenure as the 13th Secretary of the Smithsonian in July 2015.

Dr. Skorton was chosen for this position based on his outstanding merit and impressive leadership record. He has extensive experience as an administrator, cardiologist, and biomedical researcher. Dr. Skorton brings his unique talent and knowledge base to his new position, where he will be the first physician to lead the Smithsonian.

A staunch advocate of the arts, sciences, and humanities, Dr. Skorton will effectively promote the Smithsonian Institution's mission of supporting the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." I am confident that his skills, experience, and expertise will serve Dr. Skorton well in his efforts to oversee the immense collection of museums and research centers that comprise the Smithsonian Institution.

I commend Dr. Skorton on earning this remarkable opportunity and I look forward to the new heights that the Smithsonian Institution will reach under his leadership.

COMMENDING STUDENTS ON RE- CEIVING MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 students from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas who received appointments to America's military academies. The students who receive appointments to our nation's prestigious military academies are some of the best and brightest students in America. They bring enormous pride to our communities. It's an honor to recognize these young leaders who have committed to protect and defend our nation through service in our military academies.

The students selected to represent our district include: Joshua Xu of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), Cy Payne of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), David Hernandez, III of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Military Academy), William Waters of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Morgan Landers of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory from Houston (U.S. Military Academy), Brittany Scofield of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Chad Cleary of Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Drake Dentry of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Nicholas Supry of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy) and Jonah Sanjay Bhide of American Embassy School, New Delhi, India (U.S. Air Force Academy).

As a former Navy pilot, I know that these students are about to embark on a tremendous citizenship experience. On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I'm thrilled to congratulate these young leaders. I'm confident they will honorably serve our nation with pride and distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS OF PATIENT SERVICES INCORPORATED

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the accomplishments of Patient Services Incorporated (PSI) and to congratulate the organization on its 25 years of assisting Americans obtain the treatments and therapies they need. PSI is a national non-profit patient assistance charitable organization, headquartered in my Congressional district in Midlothian, Virginia. PSI has provided assistance to countless Americans in all 50 states and serves as a vital safety-net charity to help meet the needs of Americans suffering from expensive rare and chronic diseases.

Through PSI's leadership and determination, our nation's most vulnerable seniors are now able to access the treatments and care they need with the financial help of non-profit chari-

table organizations. I have visited with the devoted staff at PSI in the past, toured their campus, and I am proud to have PSI headquartered in my district.

PSI was founded out of the professional and personal experience of Dana Kuhn, a former Presbyterian Minister from Jackson, Tennessee. While employed as a clinical counselor at now VCU Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, Dana Kuhn encountered families devastated by chronic illnesses. Dr. Kuhn founded PSI in an effort to help this underserved community, and since then PSI has focused on finding solutions to the challenges facing the chronically ill.

Today I would like to congratulate PSI on its 25 years of helping Americans access medical treatments and therapies. In particular, I commend its Founder and President, Dana Kuhn, on his service to our country and his fellow man by creating this charitable organization.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR PETER AMMON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Peter Ammon as he leaves his post as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States. His hard work and dedication to strengthening the economic and cultural relationship between Germany and the United States must be commended.

In his role as Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Ammon strengthened the strong ties that bind Germany and the United States. Within the U.S., he visited 45 states and met with ordinary Americans, Governors, State Legislators, Members of Congress, and local elected officials. He also helped establish the German residence as an icon of German culture by featuring art crafted by U.S. and German artists on a rotating basis. The National Day parties hosted at the residence drew more than 3,500 guests, who enjoyed German art and food.

Dr. Ammon has championed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership both as German Ambassador and for nearly 20 years prior because he knows this groundbreaking trade agreement will create jobs and growth on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr. Ammon leaves his post in Washington with the United States and Europe taking great strides toward finishing these tough, but necessary negotiations.

Dr. Ammon has served as German Ambassador to the United States since 2011. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Paris, France, and various other roles in the German government, including Director General for Economics at the German Foreign Office from 2001 to 2007 and Head of Policy Planning from 1996 to 1999. Prior to his service in these roles, Dr. Ammon served as a career diplomat in London, Senegal, and New Delhi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my good friend Dr. Peter Ammon for his great service and commitment to the special relationship between Germany and the United States. We thank Dr. Ammon for his leadership and send him our very best